Submission of report by Constitution Review Commission

†4165. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Constitution Review Commission has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the report, so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has asked to seriously go into the issues of foreign nationality;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Commission has recommended that the issue of eligibility of only natural born citizens of India or those whose parents or grandparents were citizens of India to hold high offices such as President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Chief Justice of India be examined in depth through a political process after a national dialogue.

(b), (d) and (e) Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject-matter of the recommendations.

Reorganisation of Constituencies

4166. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reorganise the boundaries of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies pending delimitation of constituencies till 2005;

(b) if so, the details of pattern and time-schedule finalized to implement the same; and

(c) if not, the action taken to equate proportionate representation of population as well as to remove locational disadvantages?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Government has introduced the Delimitation Bill, 2002, in the Lok Sabha on 3.5.2002. The Bill seeks to set up a Delimitation Commission for the purpose of effecting delimitation of electoral constituencies on the basis of the population as ascertained at the census of 1991 so as to correct the distortion in the sizes of electoral constituencies. The proposed Delimitation Commission would also refix the number of seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on the basis of the 1991 census, without affecting the total number of seats allocated to the States based on the census of 1971. The said Bill provides that the Delimitation Commission shall endeavour to complete its work within two years. The Bill also indicates certain guidelines for functioning of the Delimitation Commission.

Meetings through video-conferencing

4167. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to Comapany Secretaries to study the prospect of holding board meetings through video-conferencing;

(b) whether security aspects of the deliberations have been kept in view before taking such a decision; and

(c) the salient features of the draft reprot and the presentation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) In principle a decision has been taken to allow Board Meetings through use of Electronic Media including Video-Conferencing. The Institute of Company Secretaries had been involved in the consultations. A final shape has not yet been given to the proposed changes.

Video conferencing in jails

4168. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the system of dispensation of Justice through Video Conferencing has been introduced in Tihar Jail where undertrials are able to participate in the court proceeding without moving out of the Jail;